

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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P R 181030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9401

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3030

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP CB VS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR CODEL VISIT TO CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 2799

1. SUMMARY. PRESENT TELEGRAM IS INTENDED TO GIVE PRELIMINARY EMBASSY-GKR THINKING ON A PROGRAM FOR A ONE-DAY CODEL VISIT TO PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS DISCUSSED CODEL VISIT PROGRAM IN LENGTHY LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND AMBASSADOR UM SIM ON FEBRUARY 16. UM SIM WILL BE OPERATIVE POINT OF CONTACT WITH GKR. OUR TENTATIVE OUTLINE FOR AN ITINERARY ASSUMES A 9-HOUR VISIT, WITH GROUP ARRIVING FROM SAIGON BY SPECIAL PLANE AT 0800 LOCAL TIME AND DEPARTING FOR SAIGON AT 1700 LOCAL. OUTLINE FOLLOWS:

0800 -- ARRIVAL POCHENTONG AIRPORT, DRIVE TO CHANCERY. AIRPORT ARRIVAL FORMALITIES MINIMAL.

0830 -- MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN AT CHANCERY, FOR INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO GROUP.

0900 -- CALL UPON PRESIDENT LON NOL AT CHAMCAR MON. MARSHAL LON NOL WILL ADDRESS GROUP BRIEFLY IN KHMER, WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY AMBASSADOR UM SIM.

0930 TO 1230 -- PARTY DIVIDES INTO SEVERAL SUBGROUPS, WITH NOT TO EXCEED 6 OR 7 OF PARTY PER GROUP, EACH GROUP TO BE COMPRESSED, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, INTO THREE

VEHICLES. NUMBER OF GROUPS WILL DEPEND ON ULTIMATE SIZE OF PARTY VISITING PHNOM PENH. SITES TO BE VISITED

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BY SUBGROUPS ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

1230 -- INFORMAL BUFFET LUNCHEON, AS SUBGROUPS ARRIVE
SERIATIM FROM SITE VISITS, HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER
LONG BORET. PRESENT WOULD BE ENGLISH-SPEAKING
MEMBERS OF CABINET AND KHMER ARMED FORCES, PLUS SELECTED
MEMBERS OF KHMER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (GRADUATES OF
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES). FOLLOWING BUFFET, OPPORTUNITY
FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER
KHMERS PRESENT.

1400 -- SUBGROUPS CONTINUE VISITS TO OTHER SITES.

1500 -- PARTY REGROUPS AT RESIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR FOR
DISCUSSION, AND QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD.

1530 -- AT RESIDENCE, PARTY MEETS WITH AMERICAN NEWS-
MEN AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING FOREIGN PRESS. EMBASSY HOPES
THAT THIS WILL DEVELOP INTO TWO-WAY DIALOGUE BETWEEN
GROUP AND PRESS, MANY OF WHOM ARE WELL-INFORMED ABOUT
THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION AND PROBLEMS.

1630 -- DEPART RESIDENCE FOR AIRPORT.

1700 -- DEPART AIRPORT BY SPECIAL PLANE FOR SAIGON.

3. SITE VISITS. IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID STATIONARY
PROTRACTED BRIEFING SESSIONS, AND TO EXPOSE GROUP TO
AS MANY INFORMATIVE SITES AS POSSIBLE IN PHNOM PENH
AREA, EMBASSY WILL WORK OUT WITH GKR SERIES OF FEASIBLE
ITINERARIES COVERING THE THREE-HOUR MORNING AND THE
ONE-HOUR AFTERNOON PERIODS ALLOWED FOR THIS ACTIVITY.
MOST SITES WILL ONLY BE VISITED BY ONE SUBGROUP, A FEW
BY TWO, SO THAT PARTY MEMBERS CAN LATER EXCHANGE IN-
FORMATION AND IMPRESSIONS.

A) ON MILITARY SIDE, WE WOULD PLAN TO INCLUDE:
CHRUOY CHANG WAR NAVAL BASE, SAMRONG ARMY MAINTENANCE
DEPOT (WHERE M-113S ARE REPAIRED), POCHENTONG AIRPORT
(FOR OBSERVATION OF BOTH KAF ACTIVITIES AND CURRENT
U.S. AIRLIFT OPERATION), A MILITARY HOSPITAL/TRIAGE
CENTER, AND A VISIT TO EMG HEADQUARTERS, WITH A CALL
UPON C-IN-C/FANK LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ.

B) ON ECONOMIC/HUMANITARIAN/SOCIAL SIDE: VISITS
TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN NORTH DIKE AND ROUTE 4 AREAS, THE
CAMBODIANA CLINIC, THE TUOL KORK NUTRITION CENTER, AT
LEAST TWO CIVILIAN OR MIXED MILITARY/CIVILIAN HOSPITALS,
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AND ASSORTED PAGODAS IN THE CITY AT WHICH VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES ARE ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING REFUGEES GROUPED THERE.

4. AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HAVE RANKING ENGLISH-SPEAK-
ING KHMERS, WHO ARE COMPETENT IN SUBJECTS DEMONSTRATED
BY SITES, ACCOMPANY THE SUBGROUPS. THEY WILL ALSO BE
ABLE TO INTERPRET FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH INDIVIDUAL
REFUGEES, HOSPITAL PATIENTS, AND THE LIKE.

5. ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARTY WILL DEPEND ON KNOWN PRIOR INTERESTS OF CODEL MEMBERS, OR ON EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE OR OTHER GUIDELINES RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE. BEYOND THIS, WE HOPE THAT MEMBERS WILL ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT TO SUBGROUPS IN GOOD GRACE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF GIVING EACH PARTY MEMBER MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE AND TO TALK WITH KHMERS. EACH SUBGROUP WILL VISIT A REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF BOTH MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY SITES.

6. WE EARLIER SUGGESTED (REFTEL), THAT A SMALLER NUMBER OF THE GROUP MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN PHNOM PENH TO PERMIT MORE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND DISCUSS KHMER PROBLEMS. OUR PRELIMINARY THING ON THAT SUBJECT FOLLOWS: THE "OVERNIGHTERS" WOULD BE PLACED IN SMALL GROUPS IN EMBASSY RESIDENCES TO PERMIT DINNERS AND EVENING DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTICULAR GROUPS OF KHMERS. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, OR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, SELECTED MILITARY, AND THE LIKE, DEPENDING UPON GROUP INTERESTS. THE NEXT MORNING MIGHT BE OCCUPIED BY A VISIT TO NEAK LUONG OR TO KOMPONG SPEU, DEPENDING UPON THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION, FOR A BETTER APPRECIATION OF BOTH MILITARY AND REFUGEE SITUATIONS.

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